

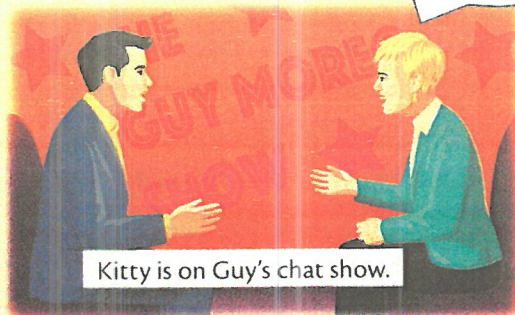
## 6

## Present Continuous or Present Simple?

## 1 Now or sometimes?



Kitty Beamish is a TV reporter.



Kitty is on Guy's chat show.

## PRESENT CONTINUOUS

We use the Present Continuous for something happening now. *I am speaking to you live* means that Kitty is in the middle of a live broadcast.

Here are some more examples.

*It's raining at the moment.*

*I'm watching this programme.*

*Look. That man is taking a photo of you.*

## PRESENT SIMPLE

We use the Present Simple for repeated actions. *I often speak live to the camera* means that she does it again and again.

*It always rains at the weekend.*

*I watch television most weekends.*

*He's a photographer. He takes lots of photos.*

## 2 Thoughts, feelings and states

We normally use the Present Simple to talk about thoughts and feelings.

*I think it's a good programme.*      *Kitty likes her job.*

We also use it to talk about states (see **Unit 7**) and permanent facts.

*Reporting means a lot to her.*      *Paper burns easily.*

We also use the Present Simple in **I promise, I agree, I refuse**, etc.

*I promise I'll write to you.*      *It's all right. I forgive you.*

## 3 Temporary or permanent?

## PRESENT CONTINUOUS

We use the Present Continuous for a routine or situation that we see as temporary (for a short period).

*I'm working at a sports shop for six weeks.*

*At the moment they're living in a very small flat.*

## PRESENT SIMPLE

We use the Present Simple for a routine or situation that we see as permanent.

*I work at a sports shop. It's a permanent job.*

*They live in a very nice flat.*

## 4 Always

## PRESENT CONTINUOUS

We can use **always** with the Present Continuous to mean 'very often', usually with the added meaning of 'too often'.

*Tom is always inviting friends here.*  
(= He invites them very often.)

*I'm always making silly mistakes.*  
(= I make silly mistakes too often.)

## PRESENT SIMPLE

**Always** with the Present Simple means 'every time'.

*Tom always invites us to stay at Christmas.*  
(= He invites us every Christmas.)

*I always make silly mistakes in exams.*  
(= I make mistakes in every exam.)



**A Present Continuous or Present Simple? 1-2**

At work Mark is talking to Oliver in the corridor. Complete their conversation.

Put in the Present Continuous or Present Simple of the verbs.

- Mark: ♦ *Are you looking* (you / look) for someone?  
 Oliver: Yes, ♦ *I need* (I / need) to speak to Lucas. He isn't in his office.  
 Mark: 1 (he / talk) to the boss at the moment. 2  
 (I / think) 3 (they / discuss) money.  
 Oliver: Oh, right. And what about you? 4 (you / look) for someone too?  
 Mark: Yes, Linda. 5 (you / know) where she is?  
 Oliver: Oh, she isn't here today. She only 6 (work) four days a week.  
 7 (she / not / work) on Fridays. She'll be here on Monday.  
 Mark: Thank you. 8 (you / know) a lot about Linda.  
 Oliver: Well, most days 9 (I / give) her a lift, or 10  
 (she / give) me one. 11 (she / live) quite close to me.  
 12 (it / save) petrol.  
 Mark: Yes, of course. Good idea. Yes, 13 (I / agree). Well,  
 14 (I / waste) my time here then. I'll get back to my computer.

**B Present Continuous or Present Simple? 1-3**

Complete the sentences. Put in the Present Continuous or Present Simple of the verbs.

- ♦ *I'm writing* (I / write) to my parents. *I write* (I / write) to them every weekend.  
 1 (it / snow) outside. (it / come) down quite hard, look.  
 2 Normally (I / start) work at eight o'clock, but (I / start) at seven this week. We're very busy at the moment.  
 3 I haven't got a car at the moment, so (I / go) to work on the bus this week. Usually (I / drive) to work.  
 4 The sun (rise) in the east, remember. It's behind us so (we / travel) west.  
 5 I'm afraid I have no time to help just now. (I / write) a report. But (I / promise) I'll give you some help later.  
 6 (I / want) a new car. (I / save) up to buy one.

**C Always 4**

Complete the sentences. Use *always* and the Present Continuous or Present Simple.

- ♦ Melanie: Tom talks too much, doesn't he?  
 Rita: Yes, and *he's always talking* about football.  
 ♦ Laura: You forget your keys every time.  
 Alex: I try to remember them, but *I always forget*.  
 1 Claire: Sarah takes the train every day, doesn't she?  
 Mark: Yes, the train.  
 2 Vicky: Rachel misses lectures much too often in my opinion.  
 Emma: I agree. lectures.  
 3 Mike: Every time I drive along here, I go the wrong way.  
 Harriet: But it's very simple, isn't it? Why the wrong way?  
 4 David: Alex and Laura argue much too often, I think.  
 Melanie: I know.